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Two new exhibits kick off summer at RCC galleries

The Rogue Community College FireHouse Gallery will host “Current Events” by Washington artist Gerrit Van Ness, July 1–28.

Van Ness creates socially engaged art that invites viewers to reflect thoughtfully and critically about the societies in which they live. His satirical mixed-media sculptures target politics, pop culture, war and hunger in an attempt to raise public consciousness.

Van Ness studied wood products engineering at Syracuse University, N.Y. His colorful life-sized sculptures have been shown in galleries around the nation. His work has been featured in many woodworking publications and has earned him numerous exhibition awards.

A First Friday Art Night reception will be held from 6 to 9 p.m. July 10.

In the RCC Wiseman Gallery, Lauren Odell Usher will display “Did You Wake Up This Morning?” The exhibit is scheduled July 6 through Aug. 28.

Usher uses linocut prints of everyday people on everyday items such as bags, toilet paper, pillows, pizza boxes, desk calendars and sponges to represent the value the mundane holds and the connections we all share.

The Berkley artist has a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Oregon State University and a master’s degree in studio art from John F. Kennedy University. Her recycled art installation pieces have been shown in California and in Florida.

Also on display in the Wiseman Gallery Annex will be artwork by RCC student Kim DeYoung.

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